GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5586
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2001
POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COAL SECTOR
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of recently presented paper on " Policy initiatives for sustainable development of coal sector" as contained in Indian Minvest - 2001;

(b) if so, the details in the regard;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to reduce the coal freight charges to give some subsidy;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

a) Yes, Sir.

b) The paper reflects on the status of the coal industry in the country, mentions the policy initiatives already in place such as foreign direct investment and status of private mining for captive end-use and the new policy initiatives such as introduction of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 to allow non-captive coal mining by Private Sector, complete overhaul of regulatory framework, pricing of non-coking coal on GCV basis,level playing field for the private sector, railway freight rationalisation and extension of incentives/financial concession to coal sector. Other major issues relevant to making Indian coal competitive have also been mentioned.

c) The new policy initiatives mentioned therein alongwith the issues raised relevant to making Indian coal competitive have engaged the attention of the Government.

d) to (f) The domestic coal industry requires substantive relief from the burden of high Railway freight . The Government is already seized of the matter.